

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S E C R E T

COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port and Airfield at Amderma	DATE DISTR.	2 December 1955
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1. [] ship approached Amderma at night and went close inshore, on the landward side of the Soviet ships in the port, and almost opposite the airfield. The ship had scarcely been there half-an-hour when a launch with a number of Soviet officials in green uniforms appeared: one of them was apparently the harbor master. He asked what the ship was doing, and it was explained that it was waiting to join another ship further north on the following morning. He then ordered the ship to "get further out, as there is not enough water here". [] ship had taken soundings and found that the depth was five and a half fathoms: far more than it needed. The Soviets gave the impression that they were considerably disturbed []
2. Amderma was a small town without any visible port installations. There were three Soviet ships in the port, about three-quarters of a mile out at sea; they were unloading while at anchor. A light-house flashed a signal every three seconds.
3. There was an airfield about three-quarters of a mile north of the town. The airfield extended right down to the water's edge. Three large four-engined, propeller-driven aircraft were on the airfield. They were painted grey and were parked facing seawards near the water. No runway was visible from the seaward side; nor could any airfield installations be observed.

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